

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03
H-01 OIC-02 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /105 W
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O R 271654Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3280
INFO USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CON-
GRESSIONAL REPORT ON 102 EXBD MEETING,
APRIL 25 - MAY 12, 1977

REF: (A) STATE 120627 (B) STATE 89742 (C) PARIS 114279
(D) PARIS 14841

1. PERMDEL WELCOMES AND APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO
COMMENT ON PROPOSED REPORT TO CHAIRMAN FASCELL. OUR
VIEW IS THAT REPORT SHOULD MORE POSITIVELY REFLECT
NON-POLITICAL NATURE OF 102ND BOARD, ALONG WITH THOSE
ASPECTS WHICH FURTHERED US INTEREST. PERMDEL SUGGESTS,
IN PARTICULAR, THAT APPOINTMENT OF CHANDLER TO HEAD IBE
BE GIVEN GREATER STRESS AS WE FEEL THIS IS A MAJOR
ACHIEVEMENT.

2. PERMDEL HAS TAKEN LIBERTY TO REDRAFT REPORT AND
SUBMITS FOLLOWING FOR DEPT. CONSIDERATION AS AN
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IMPROVED VERSION.

A. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

WE ARE PLEASED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ABOUT UNESCO
WHICH BEGAN WITH YOUR COMMITTEE LAST FEBRUARY-- FIRST
AT HEARINGS ABOUT FUNDS FOR UNESCO AND THEN IN OUR

FEBRUARY 25 LETTER ABOUT FUTURE PLANS-- I AM WRITING TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED SPRING SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD (HELD IN PARIS FROM APRIL 25 TO MAY 12, 1977).

B. THE U.S. DELEGATION'S POSITION AT THE 102 EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS STRONGER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE RECENT PAST SINCE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND THE SECRETARIAT WERE AWARE OF THE ACTIONS IN CONGRESS WHICH OFFERED PROMISE OF PAYMENT OF U.S. ARREARAGES FOR 1975 AND 1976, AS WELL AS GOOD HOPE FOR PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF OUR 1977 DUES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE U.S. WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PAYMENT EITHER BEFORE OR DURING THE BOARD MEETING, LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION TO FACE THE TYPE OF DIFFICULTY WHICH HAS BEEN A CONSTANT FACTOR SINCE THE END OF 1974. (THIS HAS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR UNESCO TO BORROW \$6 MILLION FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES TO MEET THE PAYROLL).

C. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS ALSO REINFORCED BEYOND ITS USUAL COMPLEMENT BY HAVING A SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS SPEND ONE WEEK AT THE BOARD, AND BY THE ATTENDANCE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OF MRS. SARAH GODDARD POWER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO.

D. OUR REPRESENTATIVES WERE GIVEN CAREFUL AND ATTENTIVE HEARINGS ON ALL SUBJECTS. THIS INCLUDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INITIATIVE THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION TOOK TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROCEDURES, TO DEAL WITH STRONGLY-HELD DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES, IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE RESPONSIBILITIES FALLING TO UNESCO UNDER ITS UNIQUE MANDATE. OUR INITIATIVE -- A STATEMENT TO THE BOARD, REINFORCED BY EXTENSIVE PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS -- OUTLINED THE NEED FOR SUCH PROCEDURES AND PROPOSED THIS MATTER BE FORMALLY DEALT WITH BY THE BOARD AT ITS FALL SESSION. WE WERE GRATIFIED BY THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRIVATE COMMENTS MADE BY MANY BOARD MEMBERS.

E. THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DEBATE -- ONE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES, TURNED OUT TO BE THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING UNESCO'S CAPACITY FOR DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ISSUES WHICH HAVE OFTEN BEEN USED IN UNESCO TO FURTHER SOVIET BLOC POLITICAL AIMS. WE WERE VERY SATISFIED TO FIND WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEW THAT UNESCO'S CAPABILITIES

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
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IN THIS FIELD SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED-- FOR EXAMPLE, BY
STREAMLINING AND SHORTENING THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR
PROCESSING COMPLAINTS, BY CONSIDERING THE USE OF
INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO EXAMINE CHARGES OF VIOLATIONS,
AND BY BROADENING THE SCOPE OF UNESCO'S INTEREST
IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEYOND "FLAGRANT AND
MASSIVE" CASES (E.G., APARTHEID) TO INDIVIDUAL CASES.
THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICI-
PATE ON THE 13-MEMBER WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH
PRESENTING TO THE FALL SESSION OF THE BOARD SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS
PROCEDURES. BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OUR VIEWS RE-
CEIVED FROM A SOLID MAJORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS, WE
WERE ABLE NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT, BUT TO CO-SPONSOR THE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE END OF THE DEBATE.

F. ONE OF THE MOST SALUTORY RESULTS OF THE 102
EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS BOARD MEMBERS' NEARLY UNANIMOUS
AND ENTHUSIASTIC ALIGNMENT BEHIND THE U.S. DELEGATION'S
PERSUASION THAT THE BOARD MUST MAKE PROVISION FOR
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CONTINUED UNESCO COOPERATION WITH THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU) OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS THE JIU (UNDER ITS NEW STATUTE) BEGINS TO PERFORM THE IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF MAKING EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INCLUDING UNESCO. BOARD MEMBERS SUPPORT WAS CLEAR, DESPITE STRONG, "LEGALLY BASED" MISGIVINGS EXPRESSED BY SOME SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS. THE BOARD ALSO ENCOURAGED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN HIS PLANS TO USE THE NEW INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF UNESCO FOR INTERNAL EVALUATION, AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE JIU. SPECIFICALLY, THE BOARD-- WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION'S SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT-- PASSED A RESOLUTION URGING THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL "...TO INSURE AND STIMULATE, AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE FIELD, THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING METHODS, THE EVALUATION OF PROJECTS, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND A POLICY OF ECONOMY FOR THE ORGANIZATION."

G. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN GRATIFIED THAT U.S. EFFORTS HAVE LED TO A DECISION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL-- ANNOUNCED TO THE BOARD-- TO APPOINT AN AMERICAN TO HEAD THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION, A KEY POSITION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACTS OF THREE OTHER SENIOR AMERICANS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT. THIS IS NOT TO AVOID THE FACT OF A DECLINING AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE SECRETARIAT, STEMMING IN PART FROM THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF TOP-LEVEL AMERICANS HAVE REACHED THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE, AND IN PART AS A RESULT OF THE GENERAL RETRENCHMENT IN POSITIONS (SOME 134 REMAIN UNFILLED) BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION AND FROM UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THE U.S. IN UNESCO. (PERMDEL OMITTED PERCENTAGES BECAUSE OVERALL U.S. EMPLOYMENT WAS NOT AN ISSUE BEFORE BOARD AS WAS APPOINTMENT OF CHANDLER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS).

H. THE ONLY NOTABLE SET BACK FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE 102 EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS THE RESULT OF A FORTUITOUS DEBATE INVOLVING THE APPLICATION FOR NGO

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L-03 H-01 OIC-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07
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STATUS OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD CERTIFIED TO THE SECRETARIAT THAT IT NO LONGER COUNTED SOUTH AFRICAN OR RHODESIAN MEMBERS, THOUGH ACCORDING TO PAPERS SUPPLIED EARLIER, SOUTH AFRICANS, RHODESIANS AND TAIWANESE HAD BEEN MEMBERS. A CARELESS SECRETARIAT PREPARATION OF THE CASE LEFT SUFFICIENT DOUBT IN MOST BOARD MEMBERS' MINDS TO CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BE DEFERRED PENDING THE CLARIFICATION OF TECHNICAL MATTERS. THE ATTENDANT DEBATE, HOWEVER, LED THE MAJORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS TO REAFFIRM DECISIONS TAKEN BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS IN NAIROBI THAT NGO'S MAY BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS' POLICIES. THIS, OF COURSE, RUNS COUNTER TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION FIRMLY RESTATED AT THE 102 EXBD THAT NGO'S BE DEALT WITH STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE OR TO BENEFIT FROM UNESCO'S PROGRAM, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES FOR WHICH THEY BEAR NO RESPONSIBILITY.

I. NO ISSUES RELATING TO ISRAEL WERE ON THE AGENDA
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OF THE 102 EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. COMMENT: FINALLY, WITH REGARDS TO
CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, IT WAS NOT EXPECTED OR INTENDED
THAT ANY MAJOR OR DRAMATIC PROGRESS TOWARD THE
DIRECTION WE HOPE TO MOVE UNESCO WOULD OCCUR AT THE
BOARD. IT WAS, IN FACT, A U.S. POSITION THAT THE
102 EXBD SHOULD BE QUIET AND NON-POLITICAL SO AS TO
HEAD OFF ANY POSSIBILITY FOR AN EMBARRASSING OR
CRIPPLING CONFRONTATION AT A TIME WHEN US CONGRESSIONAL
DECISION ON FUNDING STILL HAD NOT BEEN FINALIZED.
THE QUIET NON-CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF THE BOARD WAS,
IN ITSELF, A STEP FORWARD IN KEEPING OUT POLITICAL
CONTROVERSIES. IT WAS, IN FACT, THE PROTOTYPE
OF WHAT A UNESCO EXBD MEETING SHOULD BE.
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